



**TOWN OF WESTBROOK
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mulvey Municipal Center
866 Boston Post Rd.
Westbrook, CT 06498
Tel. 399-3046 – FAX 399-2084

**Westbrook Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada) Virtual Meeting**

Members Present

Marty Marx, Chairman; Sheridan Bauman, Chris Bazinet, Randy Bell, Molly Bernstein, and John Rie

Members Absent

Mike Oryl

Staff Present

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk

Call to Order

M. Marx called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes- August 18, 2020

MOTION: to approve the August 18, 2020 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes as submitted. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by M. Bernstein; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Bills:

MOTION: to approve the August time sheet from Recording Clerk Kathy King for \$121.82. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by R. Bell; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, C. Bazinet, R. Bell, M. Bernstein and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Correspondence:

There was no new correspondence.

Chairman's Report:

The article about the Heritage/Open Space Brochure that M. Marx submitted for the Westbrook Events article will be out on September 23, 2020.

M. Marx and Gus Marx went out to the T. ODell open space to cut some trees. There needs to be a maintenance plan for the open space. It might be time to consider going out to bid on maintenance work. M. Marx will contact some local Conservation Commissions to see how they maintain trails. There was discussion about what is needed to maintain the open space, power tools, etc., and what would be the best way to get the work done. Right now, it's being done by interns.

R. Bell suggested that as they have FOBI (the Friends of the Barrier Islands), there could also be a FOWF (Friends of the Westbrook Forest). Also, there are kids who have to do community service for high school graduation who might be interested in doing trail maintenance.

Open Space Projects:

- **Heritage Hill Gorge parking area and right of way**

R. Bell said that when the property was first purchased, there was an old road which later became the driveway for the people that currently live there. The people who live there would like to maintain their privacy. They have concerns about having a parking area near their house. R. Bell explained to the owners that there would only be parking for 2 or 3 cars. He said this should be pursued, so the public can access the property. There is a town easement for a right of way for that property. The town has the authority to put in an access road and a small parking area for passive recreation. M. Marx said there's a lot that can be done to work with the property owner. He and R. Bell will set up an appointment to meet with the owners of the house to talk with them about town access.

- **Heritage/Open Space Brochure**

M. Marx contacted Techniques Printing. The maps are now being printed! The total will be \$1,250.00. There is only \$250.00 in the budget for maps. J. Rie suggested M. Marx talk with First Selectman Noel Bishop about the shortage of funds for map printing.

S. Bauman suggested at the last CC meeting that the maps be sold. The maps can be displayed at the Town Hall and the library. S. Bauman also suggested selling them at town voting polls on Election Day. M. Marx offered to sell maps for a few hours on Election Day.

- **Toby Hill VIII Purchase**

At the Board of Selectmen's meeting, the contract for the Toby Hill VIII purchase was extended for three more months. H. Wallace has not had success finding more grant money especially right now when the economy has been suffering because of Covid 19. M. Marx will check with N. Bishop about what the deadline is for the three-month extension.

- **Tom ODell Memorial Open Space signage update**

C. Bazinet spoke with Tucker Reynolds from Lighthouse Signs today. The signs should be ready for pickup sometime next week. T. Reynolds is installing the Garden Club's signs. The Department of Public Works is installing the Conservation Commission's signs. There will be an unveiling ceremony in the fall in coordination with the Garden Club. M. Marx offered to pick up the signs with C. Bazinet next week. The signs will be stored in the CC office at Town Hall.

- **Tom ODell Memorial Open Space – memorial bench for Bob Peterson**

M. Marx said he will get this done.

- **Tom ODell Memorial Open Space - plans**

There was nothing new to report.

New Business:

- **CACIWC renewal – due in July for July 2020**

Two subscriptions are usually purchased, one for the Conservation Commission and one for the Inland Wetlands Commission.

MOTION: to purchase 2 CACIWC subscription renewals. **MADE:** by J. Rie; **SECONDED:** by C. Bazinet; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein, C. Bazinet and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

- **Newsletter available online**

The CACIWC newsletter is no longer being mailed as it is available online.

Old Business:

Reports: Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Town Center, Preserve Ad Hoc Committee, and Harbor Management Commission

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. **MADE:** by R. Bell; **SECONDED:** by J. Rie; **VOTED IN FAVOR:** S. Bauman, R. Bell, M. Bernstein, C. Bazinet and J. Rie; **OPPOSED:** None; **ABSTAINED:** None; **APPROVED:** 5-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen King, Recording Clerk